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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/010,294 | 11/12/2001 | James E. Ostrander | (ITT-482-A)-AC068 & AC069 | 5096 |

7590 01/21/2003
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EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

3679

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,294

Applicant(s)

OSTRANDER ET AL.

Examiner

David E. Bochna

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 6-11 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the contact member" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the connector housing" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the endform" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the a seal" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (e) the invention was described in-
 - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b)

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only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Snyder, Sr. et al.

In regard to claim 1, Snyder, Sr. et al. discloses (fig. 1) a fluid quick connector

comprising:

A connector housing 10 configured to mate with an endform 14;

An electrical contact 34 mounted in the connector housing for establishing electrical contact between an outer surface of endform 14 and the connector housing 10 (see column 4, lines 54-57).

In regard to claim 2, the electrical contact comprises;

An electrically conductive annular body 24 having an outer diameter disposing the body in contact with an inner diameter of the bore in the connector housing; and

a radially inward extending contact member 34 carried on the electrical contact adapted to engage the male endform where the endform is mounted in the bore in the connector housing.

In regard to claim 3, the at least one projection 34 comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections.

In regard to claim 4, the plurality of circumferentially spaced projections comprises at least three projections.

In regard to claim 5, the plurality of projections are equi-circumferentially spaced about an inner surface of the annular body.

In regard to claim 6, the electrical contact comprises:

An electrically conductive top hat 24 mountable in a bore of the connector housing for holding a seal element 22 in the bore, the top hat having an inner bore receiving the endform; and

The contact member 34 being at least one radially inward extending projection carried on the top hat adapted to engage the endform when the endform is inserted into the bore in the connector housing.

In regard to claim 7, the at least one projection 34 comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections.

In regard to claim 8, the plurality of circumferentially spaced projections comprises at least three projections.

In regard to claim 9, the plurality of projections 34 are equi-circumferentially spaced about an inner surface of the top hat.

In regard to claim 10, the electrical contact comprises:

A spacer 24 mounted in the bore about the endform; and

The contact member 34 being at least one radially inward extending projection carried on the spacer 24 adapted to engage the endform when the endform is inserted into the bore in the connector housing.

In regard to claim 11, the connector housing and the endform being electrically conductive.

In regard to claim 12, Snyder, Sr. et al. discloses a connector housing 10 configured to mate with an endform 14;

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A spacer 24 mounted in a through bore of the connector housing about the male endform to the connector housing; and

An electrical contact member 34 carried on the spacer 24 for establishing electrical contact between the endform and the connector body.

In regard to claim 13, the contact member comprises:

The spacer 24 formed of an electrically conductive material; and at least one radially inward projection 34 carried on the spacer adapted to engage the endform where the endform is mounted in the bore in the connector housing.

In regard to claim 14, the at least one projection comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections.

In regard to claim 15, the plurality of circumferentially spaced projections comprises at least three projections.

In regard to claim 16, Snyder, Sr. et al. discloses a fluid quick connector comprising:

The connector housing 10 and the endform 14 being electrically conductive;

A top hat 24 mountable in a bore of the connector housing for holding a seal element 22 in the bore, the top hat receiving the endform 14 therethrough, the top hat formed of an electrically conductive material; and

The electrical contact member 34 being at least one radially inward extending projection carried on the top hat adapted to engage the endform when the endform is inserted into the bore in the connector housing.

In regard to claim 17, the at least one projection 34 comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections.

In regard to claim 18, the plurality of circumferentially spaced projections comprises at least three projections.

In regard to claim 19, Snyder, Sr. et al. discloses a connector housing 10 configured to mate with an endform 14 along a first axis;

The connector housing 10 and the endform 14 being electrically conductive;

A spacer 24 and a top hat 45 disposed in a through bore in the connector housing about the endform; and

An electrical contact member 34 carried on one of the spacer and the top hat for establishing electrical contact between the endform and the connector body.

In regard to claim 20, the at least one of the spacer 24 and the top hat 48 formed of an electrically conductive material; and

The electrical contact member 34 being a radially inward projection carried on one of the spacer and the top hat adapted to engage the endform where the male endform is mounted in the bore in the connector housing.

In regard to claim 21, the at least one projection comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections.

In regard to claim 22, the plurality of circumferentially spaced projections comprises at least three projections.

In regard to claim 23, Snyder, Sr. et al. discloses an electrical contact for a fluid quick connector having a connector housing 10 configured to mate with an endform 14, the electrical contact comprising:

An electrically conductive body 24 adapted to be disposed in a bore of a connector housing about an endform inserted into the housing to establish electrical contact between the endform and the connector housing.

In regard to claim 24, the electrically conductive body having an outer diameter disposing the body in contact with an inner diameter of the bore in the connector housing; and

At least one radially extending contact carried on the body adapted to engage the endform where the endform is mounted in the bore in the connector housing.

In regard to claim 25, the at least one projection comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections 34.

In regard to claim 26, the plurality of circumferentially spaced projections comprises at least three projections.

In regard to claim 27, the plurality of projections are equi-circumferentially spaced about an inner surface of the annular body.


Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kouda, Berg et al., Hollnagel, Piero, Guest, Usui et al., Schattmaier, Helm, Anderson, and UK Application '780 all disclose similar connectors common in the art.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (703) 306-9040. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.


David Bochna
January 14, 2003